

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 15-25 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 5-7 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1-14 remain pending. Support for the amendment to the claims can be found in the original specification and in the drawings. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Allowability of claims 5-7 is noted with appreciation. As presented herein above, claims 5-7 have been rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By this amendment, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the second liquid and the fourth liquid comprise a single liquid. Accordingly, in one embodiment, the second liquid and the fourth liquid are the same liquid. Support for the amendment to claim 14 can be found in the specification on page 7, line 5. Accordingly, claim 14 is believed allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 8-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maboudian and Howc in J. Vac. Sci. Technol. B 15(1) Jan/Feb 1997, pages 1-20 (hereinafter, Maboudian). With respect to claim 1, applicants respectfully traverse rejection of the same in that by this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowable claims 5-7. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 2 and 8-14, the applicants respectfully traverse rejection of the same in that, claims 2 and 8-14 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, allowable

base claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2 and 8-14 are allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,542,429 issued to Nogami et al. (hereinafter, Nogami). With respect to claim 1, applicants respectfully traverse rejection of the same in that by this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowable claims 5-7. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 2, 4 and 8-14, the applicants respectfully traverse rejection of the same in that, claims 2, 4 and 8-14 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, allowable base claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2, 4 and 8-14 are allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,545,291 issued to Smith et al. (hereinafter, Smith). With respect to claim 1, applicants respectfully traverse rejection of the same in that by this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowable claims 5-7. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in that claim 3 depends from and further limits, in a patentable sense, allowable base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance. Claims 1-14 are allowable. An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephone interview, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

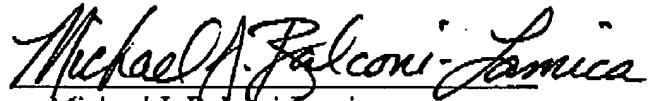
If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 503079, Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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